

Cybersecurity Professional Program Introduction to Python for Security

Functions

PY-05-L6 Recursive Search

» Lab Objective

Understand how recursion works and how it can be used in Python.



Lab Mission

Implement the concept of recursion to print values from a nested list.



Lab Duration

15-25 minutes



Requirements

- Basic knowledge of Python
- Working knowledge of functions and lists



Resources

- **Environment & Tools**
 - Windows, Linux, or macOS
 - **PyCharm**
 - Python 3



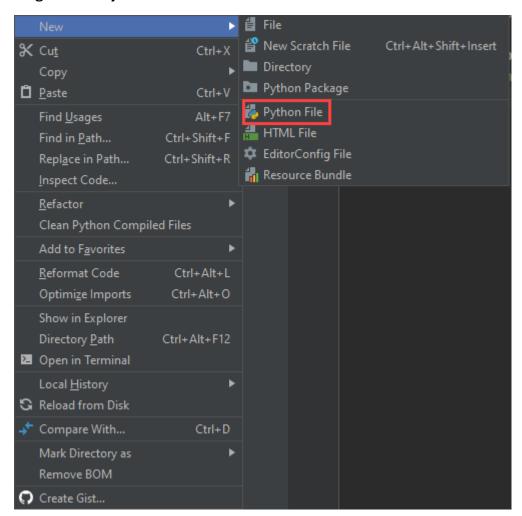
Textbook References

- Chapter 5: Functions
 - Section 3: Recursion

Lab Task: Implementing a Recursive Search

Write a program that identifies items in a list of integers and other data types and prints only numbers within nested lists.

1 Create a new Python file in PyCharm by right-clicking the project you created and selecting **New** > **Python File**.



Create a variable to store the following list: [1, 2, "a", [4, 5, "b", 6], [7, [8, "d", 9]]]

```
lst = [1, 2, "a", [4, 5, "b", 6], [7, [8, "d", 9]]]
```

3 Create a new function that accepts a parameter.

```
def print_numbers(item_list):
```

4 Create a *for* loop to iterate over the accepted parameter.

```
def print_numbers(item_list):
for item in item_list:
```

5 In the loop, check if the iterated item is an integer and print it if it is.

```
def print_numbers(item_list):
for item in item_list:
   if type(item) == int:
        print(item)
```

6 Continue the condition and check if the item is on a list. If it is, invoke the function again with the item as the provided parameter.

```
def print_numbers(item_list):
for item in item_list:
    if type(item) == int:
        print(item)
    elif type(item) == list:
        print_numbers(item)
```

7 Invoke the function to run the program.

print_numbers(lst)